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ABSTRACT

This document is a 2000 follow-up of the long-term progress of the Johnson County Community College (JCCC) Career Program. The study targeted 377 graduates, certificate recipients, and students from 1995-96 who had completed the JCCC Career Program. Of the 377, 124 surveys were returned by mail and 168 surveys were completed via telephone interviews, giving the survey a response rate of 78%. Findings include: (1) 81% of the respondents were employed in jobs related to their focus in the JCCC career program, and 87% were working full-time; (2) respondents reported an average hourly wage of $18.12; (3) nearly 89% of the respondents expressed being satisfied with their current position; (4) more than 95% of respondents indicated that the community college had helped them reach their educational objectives and that they would recommend the Career Program to others; (5) nearly nine out of ten of the respondents rated their working conditions, level of responsibility, and job in general as excellent or good, while advancement potential was rated highly by 55%, and salary was rated highly by 67%; and (6) over 49% of respondents indicated they had used the JCCC Career Center. Tables detailing results are located throughout the document. Comparisons with previous studies are also included where appropriate. Appendices contain cover letters and survey instrument. (MKF)

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ED 463 009

CAREER PROGRAM COMPLETERS 1995-96

A LONG-TERM FOLLOW-UP STUDY

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LONG-TERM FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF

1995-96 CAREER PROGRAM COMPLETERS

Johnson County Community College
Office of Institutional Research
12345 College Boulevard
Overland Park, KS 66210

November 2000

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INTRODUCTION

History of career program completer follow-up studies

For over 20 years the Office of Institutional Research at Johnson County Community College has conducted short-term follow-up studies of students who completed a JCCC career program during the previous academic year and their employers as a major component of the college's overall effort to assess institutional effectiveness. Results of these studies have provided valuable insights into the effectiveness of the career programs and have assisted the college in planning to meet the individual needs of future students and the employment needs of business and industry.

However, these short-term studies did not answer the question of how successful these JCCC career program completers tended to be over time or whether their perceptions of the value of their college experiences had changed. Thus, the first long-term study of career program completers was initiated in 1989, at which time the 1985-86 completers were surveyed. Results of this and subsequent long-term follow-up studies have provided a broader perspective on the level of job satisfaction of former students currently employed in various career fields, their opportunities for advancement, their salaries, their satisfaction with their community college experiences, and other variables which influence the career decision-making process of future JCCC students.

The second long-term follow-up study was conducted in 1990 of the 1986-87 completers, after which career program administrators were surveyed to elicit their opinions on whether these data would be more valuable if collected after a longer period of time had elapsed since program completion. The results were evenly divided between preference for a 3-year or a 5-year follow-up study. Thus, the decision was made to utilize a 4-year interval, resulting in a follow-up study of 1987-88 completers in 1992, 1988-89 completers in 1993, 1989-90 completers in 1994, and so on.

Methodology

The list of 544 graduates, certificate recipients, and students identified by career program administrators as leaving with marketable skills in 1995-96 was reviewed by career program administrators to insure the most recent addresses and telephone numbers possible. Surveys were mailed on June 27 and July 18, 2000, and remaining nonrespondents were telephoned during the week of August 7, 2000. Additional information secured through telephone contact with acquaintances of completers was utilized for a third mailing conducted in September.

A total of 162 former students had no opportunity to respond due to obsolete addresses and/or telephone numbers and five indicated they had *not* completed a career program during 1995-96, reducing the list of potential respondents to 377. Of those, 124 returned mail surveys and 168 completed telephone interviews for an adjusted response rate of 78%.

A summary of the major findings of the study follows. Tables detailing results of the 2000 survey are located in Appendix A, and cover letters and the mail survey are contained in Appendix B. A list of tables is provided at the start of Appendix A to facilitate location of specific data. Results have been presented by career program as often as possible, and comparisons between 2000 results and findings from previous studies are presented where appropriate to enhance the usefulness of the data.

Caution should be exercised when generalizing these findings due to the relatively small number of respondents in some programs. Results are not necessarily representative of either the number of students enrolled in each program or the salaries of all career program completers.

Copies of program-specific verbatim comments have been provided to career program facilitators and are available to other interested parties in the Office of Institutional Research. Full reports detailing results of all of the follow-up studies of career program completers are also available in the Office of Institutional Research.

Comments or questions regarding this report or previous follow-up studies of career program completers may be directed to:

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MAJOR FINDINGS

Utilization of community college preparation

* Over 81% of 2000 respondents were employed in a job related to their community college career program, down slightly from results of the past few years. Of those, 87% were working full-time and 13% were employed part-time only.

* Less than 2% of 2000 respondents were unemployed and looking for work, and 6% were out of the labor force altogether, about the same as reported by respondents to the 1999 study.

* Over 11% of 2000 respondents were employed in unrelated jobs, the same as reported by respondents to the 1999 study.

Experiences with full-time related job

* Approximately 42% of both 1999 and 2000 respondents indicated their current full-time related job was their first in that career field.

* Only 64% of 2000 respondents had been employed in their current full-time related job for 2 years or more, compared to 70% of 1999 respondents.

* Approximately nine out of ten respondents to each of the recent long-term follow-up studies felt they had progressed in their career field since completion of their community college course of study.

Hourly wage and satisfaction with full-time related job

* An average hourly wage of $18.12 was reported by 2000 respondents employed full-time in a related job, up from $17.19 in 1999. The difference in the average hourly earnings of males vs. females was only $.26 in 2000, down from a difference of $1.99 in 1999 and $1.62 in 1998. This difference was particularly noteworthy in the 2000 wages reported by completers of the computer information systems program ($35.80 vs. $18.02). This may be at least somewhat attributable to the fact that several of the male respondents were working full-time as consultants, which pays a far higher hourly wage, and none of the females were doing consulting work full-time.

* Nearly 89% of respondents expressed satisfaction with their full-time related job, up from 85% in 1999. Nearly nine out of ten of the 2000 respondents rated their working conditions, level of responsibility, and job in general as excellent or good, while advancement potential was rated highly by 55%, and salary was rated highly by 67%.

Community college experiences

* Nine out of ten respondents to all of the recent long-term follow-up studies of career program completers indicated JCCC was their first choice college to attend.

* The method of career program completion for the majority of respondents has remained essentially the same year after year, with seven out of ten respondents reporting that they had earned an associate's degree. However, a substantially greater percent of respondents now complete a certificate program than was true in the past, primarily because of the rapid increase in certificate program offerings in computer-related fields.

* Over 49% of the 2000 respondents indicated they had used the services of the JCCC Career Center, up from 44% in 1999 and 43% in 1998.

Satisfaction with community college experiences

* Eight out of ten respondents to all of the recent long-term follow-up studies of career program completers indicated their community college experiences had helped to enhance their self-confidence. The majority also indicated the community college had helped them to improve their oral and written communication, time management, decision-making, and interpersonal skills, broadened their knowledge of the arts and sciences, expanded their tolerance for people and ideas, and assisted them in clarifying their personal values and goals.

* Nine out of ten respondents to all of the recent long-term follow-up studies of career program completers indicated they had achieved their community college educational objective. Of those, over 95% indicated the community college had helped them to achieve that objective.

* Nine out of ten respondents to all of the recent long-term follow-up studies of career program completers indicated their community college experiences had improved their quality of life (apart from any financial benefit) and, if starting now, nine out of ten also would attend the community college again.

* Nearly 97% of respondents to all of the recent long-term follow-up studies of career program completers indicated they would recommend JCCC to friends, and nine out of ten would encourage their own children to attend JCCC.

CURRENT STATUS

What percentage of respondents are employed in a related job several years after completing their community college course of study, and what are the other completers doing?

One of the primary purposes of conducting long-term follow-up studies of career program completers is to determine, over time, how they utilize the skills developed through their course of study. Figure 1 depicts the current status of respondents to this year's long-term follow-up study. Note that 81% of respondents were working in a job related to their course of study, and less than 2% were unemployed and looking for work.

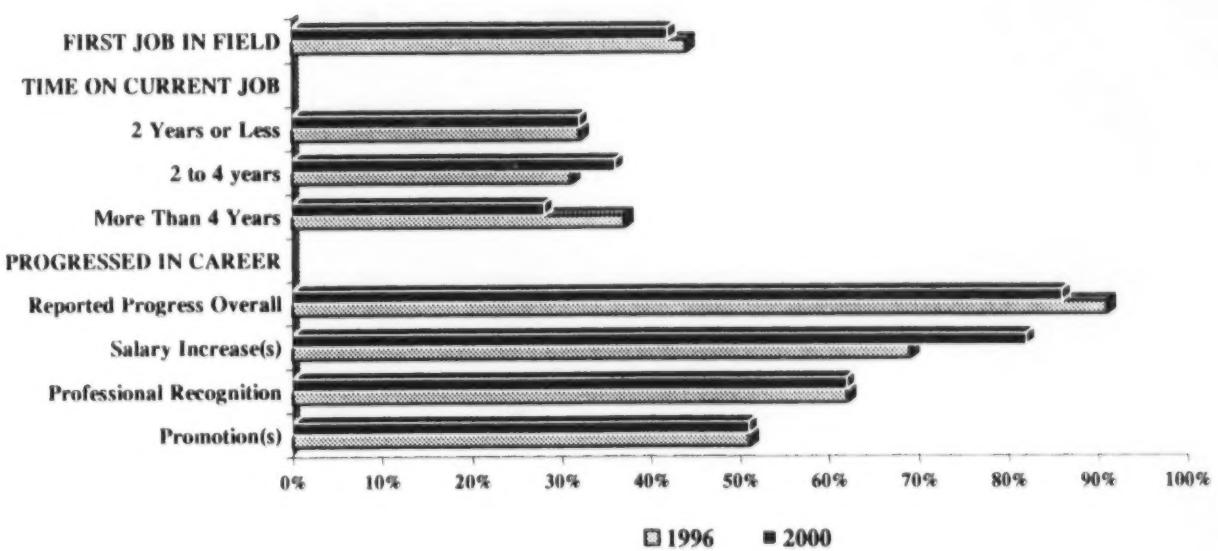
Table 2 in Appendix A details results and comparisons of findings for each of the long-term follow-up studies of career program completers conducted by the college.

Figure 1
2000 Status of 1995-96
Career Program Completers

How long have respondents working full-time in a related job had their current job, was it their first job in that career field, and have they progressed in their careers? How do the results of this study compare with results of the long-term follow-up study conducted 5 years ago?

As Figure 2 depicts, interesting differences are evident between the experiences of respondents to the 2000 study and respondents to the 1996 study. A greater percent of 1996 than 2000 respondents were still working in their first related job, and had been employed in their current full-time related job for over 4 years. These differences may explain in part why more 1996 than 2000 respondents had progressed in their careers. However, of note is the fact that although many 1996 respondents had remained in the same job longer, a greater percent of 2000 respondents reported salary increases. See Tables 5 and 6 in Appendix A for detailed results of findings for 2000 survey respondents.

Figure 2
Experiences With Full-Time Related Job



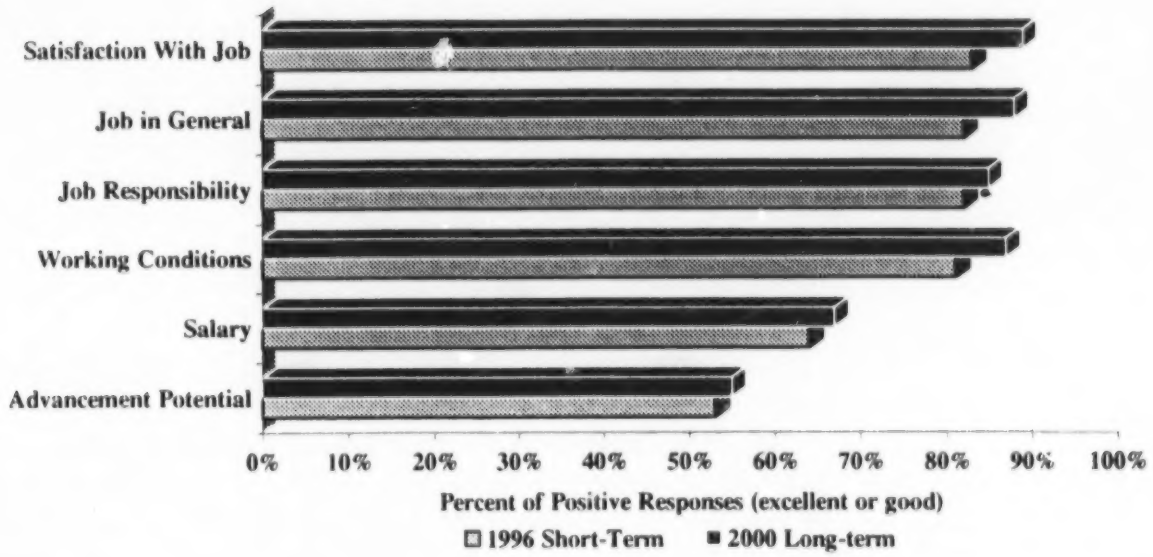
EVALUATION OF FULL-TIME RELATED JOB

How would respondents rate various aspects of their full-time related job, and how satisfied are they with their employment situation?

An important objective of the long-term follow-up study of career program completers is to ascertain respondent perceptions of their current full-time related job. Thus, respondents were asked to rate their job relative to working conditions, level of responsibility, advancement potential, salary, and the job in general.

As Figure 3 depicts, respondents to both the short-term follow-up study conducted 4 years ago and the 2000 long-term follow-up study expressed satisfaction with their full-time related job and rated all aspects of their job as either excellent or good. Of note is the consistent increase in job ratings by this same group of career program completers between 1996 and 2000. See Tables 8 to 13 in Appendix A for results of 2000 findings by career program.

Figure 3
Evaluation of Full-Time Related Job



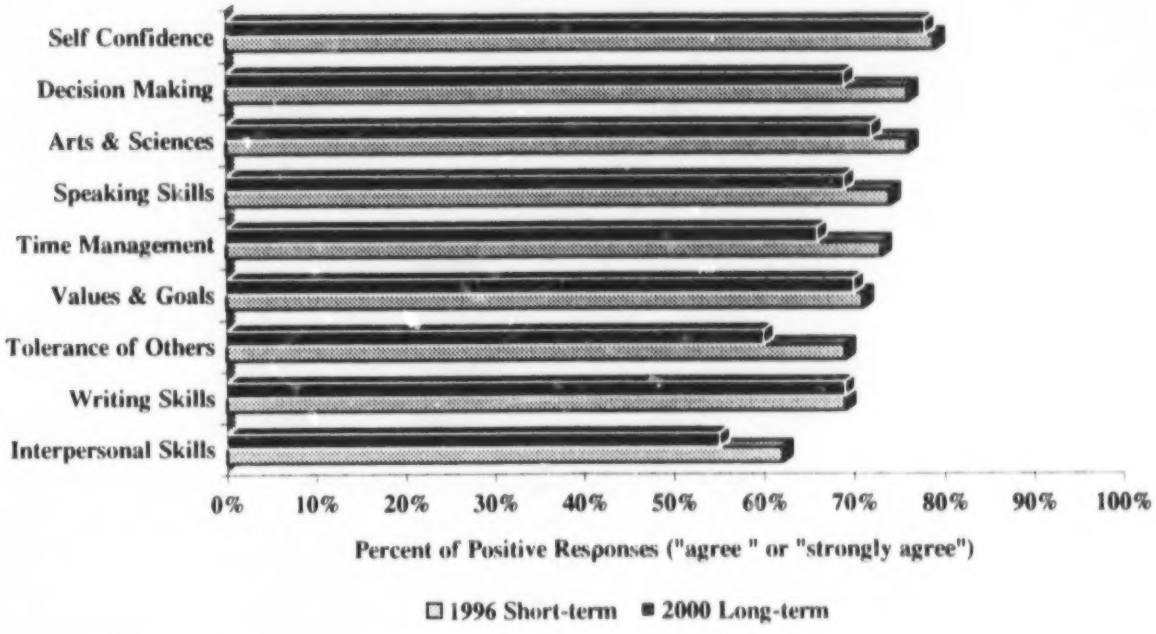
CHARACTERISTICS THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE HELPED TO IMPROVE

In what specific areas do career program completers perceive themselves as having benefited from their community college experiences?

Respondents were asked to indicate how much they agreed that the community college had helped them to accomplish a variety of "typical" goals students have for their college experiences. As Figure 4 depicts, the majority of respondents to both the short-term follow-up study of this group of completers conducted 4 years ago and the 2000 long-term follow-up study of the same group reported improvements in a variety of cognitive and noncognitive behaviors. Of note is the decrease in the percent of positive responses for nearly every variable between the short-term and long-term follow-up studies of this same group of completers.

See Table 15 in Appendix A for detailed results of 2000 findings.

Figure 4
Characteristics the Community College Helped to Improve



SATISFACTION WITH THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

How satisfied are the career program completers with their community college experiences?

An important component of the ongoing assessment of institutional effectiveness that the JCCC Office of Institutional Research conducts is contained in former students' responses to this series of questions. As Figure 5 depicts, nine out of ten respondents to both the short-term follow-up study of this group of completers conducted 4 years ago and the 2000 long-term follow-up study of the same group provided positive responses to each of these questions.

See Tables 14, 16 and 17 in Appendix A for detailed results of the 2000 follow-up study.

Figure 5
Satisfaction With The Community College

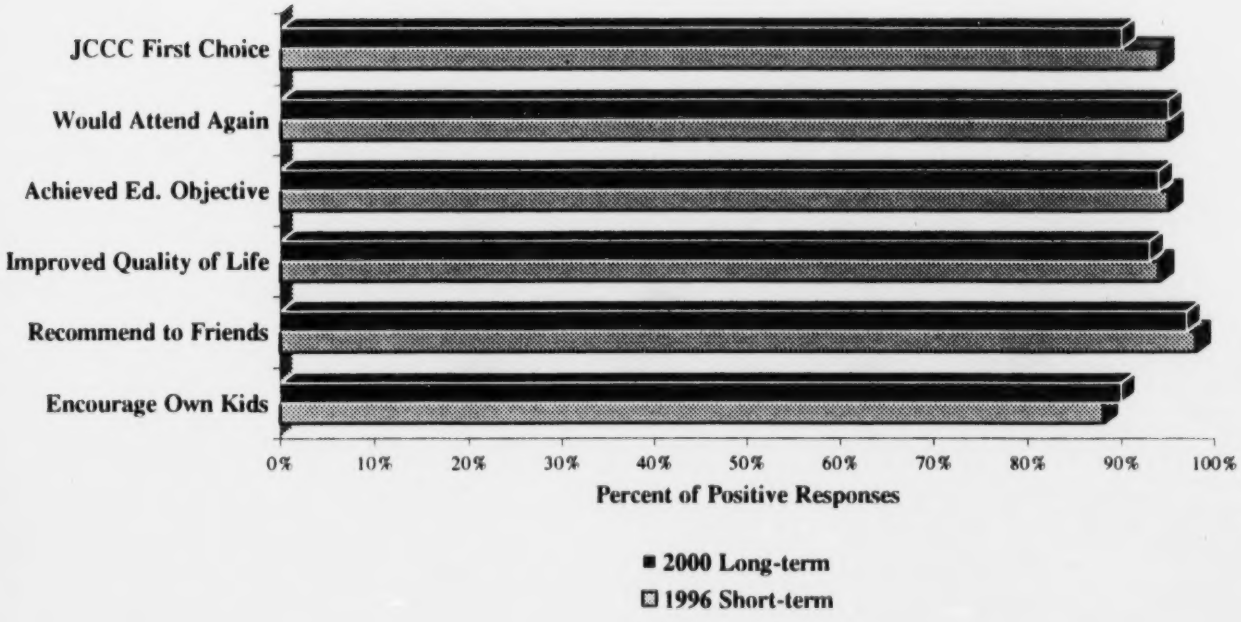


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Table 1

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

			Number of Responses	Percent
Gender				
Male			123	42.1%
Female			169	57.9
Age				
21 to 25 years old			19	6.5%
26 to 30			74	25.3
31 to 35			48	16.4
36 to 40			44	15.1
41 to 50			67	22.9
Over 50			29	9.9
Unknown			11	3.9
	Mean	37.3 years		
	Median	35.0		
Race/Ethnic Group				
White			263	90.1%
Hispanic			9	3.1
Asian or Pacific Islander			7	2.4
American Indian or Alaskan			4	1.4
African American/Black			4	1.4
Unknown			5	1.6
Marital Status				
Never married			58	19.9%
Currently married			191	65.4
Previously married			30	10.3
Unknown			13	4.4

Table 2

CURRENT STATUS

	Number of Responses	Employed in Related Job or Military	Employed in Job Unrelated to Training	Unemployed	Not in Labor Force
Accounting	13	61.5%	7.7%	15.4%	15.4%
Administration of Justice	5	60.0	40.0	0.0	0.0
Automotive Technology	1	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Aviation Maintenance Tech.	2	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Business Administration	11	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Business Entrepreneurship	2	0.0	50.0	0.0	50.0
Business Office Systems	10	90.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
Chef Apprentice	3	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Civil Engineering Technology	1	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Communication Design	8	75.0	25.0	0.0	0.0
Computer Information Systems	17	82.4	0.0	5.8	11.8
Dental Hygiene	12	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Drafting Technology	5	60.0	20.0	20.0	0.0
Electrical Technology	2	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Electronics Technology	9	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Emergency Medical Technology	28	75.0	25.0	0.0	0.0
Fashion Merchandising	1	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Fire Science	11	90.9	9.1	0.0	0.0
HVAC Technology	14	64.3	28.6	0.0	7.1
Hospitality Management	11	72.7	27.3	0.0	0.0

Note. Numbers and percentages reflect responses to this question only, excluding unknowns.

Table 2 (Continued)

CURRENT STATUS

	Number of Responses	Employed in Related Job or Military	Employed in Job Unrelated to Training	Unemployed	Not in Labor Force
Interior Design	6	83.3%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Interpreter Training	12	83.3	0.0	0.0	16.7
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	9	88.9	0.0	0.0	11.1
Marketing & Management	1	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
M.I.C.T. (Paramedic)	10	80.0	20.0	0.0	0.0
Nursing	42	92.9	0.0	0.0	7.1
Paralegal	26	65.4	23.1	0.0	11.5
Respiratory Care	13	84.6	0.0	7.7	7.7
Total:	285	81.1%	11.2%	1.7%	6.0%
4-year FU: Class of '95 (30 programs)	300	82.7%	11.3%	0.7%	5.3%
4-year FU: Class of '94 (29 programs)	344	82.6	8.7	3.5	5.2
4-year FU: Class of '93 (32 programs)	276	84.5	7.6	2.5	5.4
4-year FU: Class of '92 (31 programs)	319	82.7	9.4	1.3	6.6
4-year FU: Class of '91 (31 programs)	314	84.7	8.3	0.6	6.4
4-year FU: Class of '91 (31 programs)	314	84.7	8.3	0.6	6.4
4-year FU: Class of '90 (34 programs)	286	79.7	11.9	3.5	4.9
4-year FU: Class of '89 (33 programs)	262	80.2	9.5	5.3	5.0
4-year FU: Class of '88 (31 programs)	248	79.0	14.6	1.6	4.8
3-year FU: Class of '87 (35 programs)	293	83.2	8.2	3.1	5.5
3-year FU: Class of '86 (30 programs)	291	82.8	7.2	1.7	8.3

Note. Numbers and percentages reflect responses to this question only, excluding unknowns.

Table 3

USE OF CAREER PROGRAM SKILLS

	Number of Responses	On the Job	Volunteer Work	Not Using or "Other"
Accounting	14	78.6%	0.0%	21.4%
Administration of Justice	5	60.0	0.0	40.0
Automotive Technology	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Aviation Maintenance Technology	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Business Administration	11	100.0	0.0	0.0
Business Entrepreneurship	2	50.0	50.0	0.0
Business Office Systems	10	70.0	0.0	30.0
Chef Apprentice	3	100.0	0.0	0.0
Civil Engineering Technology	1	0.0	0.0	100.0
Communication Design	8	75.0	0.0	25.0
Computer Information Systems	17	82.4	0.0	17.6
Dental Hygiene	13	100.0	0.0	0.0
Drafting Technology	5	80.0	0.0	20.0
Electrical Technology	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Electronics Technology	9	66.7	11.1	22.2
Emergency Medical Technology	29	62.1	6.9	31.0
Fashion Merchandising	1	0.0	0.0	100.0
Fire Science	12	83.3	0.0	16.7
HVAC Technology	14	71.4	0.0	28.6
Hospitality Management	12	66.6	16.7	16.7
Interior Design	6	66.7	0.0	33.3
Interpreter Training	12	66.6	16.7	16.7
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	9	88.9	0.0	11.1
Marketing & Management	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
M.I.C.T. (Paramedic)	10	80.0	0.0	20.0
Nursing	41	92.7	0.0	7.3
Paralegal	27	63.0	0.0	37.0
Respiratory Care	13	84.6	7.7	7.7
Totals	290	77.6%	3.1%	19.3%

Note. Numbers and percentages reflect responses to this question only, excluding unknowns.

Table 4

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF RESPONDENTS WORKING IN A RELATED JOB

	Number of Responses	Part-Time	Full-Time
Accounting	8	25.0%	75.0%
Administration of Justice	3	0.0	100.0
Automotive Technology	1	0.0	100.0
Aviation Maintenance Technology	2	0.0	100.0
Business Administration	11	90.0	9.1
Business Office Systems	9	11.1	88.9
Chef Apprentice	3	0.0	100.0
Civil Engineering Technology	1	0.0	100.0
Communication Design	5	0.0	100.0
Computer Information Systems	14	7.1	92.9
Dental Hygiene	12	58.3	41.7
Drafting Technology	3	0.0	100.0
Electrical Technology	2	0.0	100.0
Electronics Technology	9	11.1	88.9
Emergency Medical Technology	21	0.0	100.0
Fire Science	10	0.0	100.0
HVAC Technology	9	0.0	100.0
Hospitality Management	8	12.5	87.5
Interior Design	4	25.0	75.0
Interpreter Training	10	0.0	100.0
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	8	25.0	75.0
Marketing & Management	1	0.0	100.0
M.I.C.T. (Paramedic)	8	0.0	100.0
Nursing	39	15.4	84.6
Paralegal	17	17.6	82.4
Respiratory Care	11	27.3	72.7
Totals	229	12.7%	87.3%

Note. Numbers and percentages reflect responses to this question only, excluding unknowns.

Table 5

CURRENT FULL-TIME RELATED JOB FIRST IN CAREER FIELD

	Number of Responses	Yes	No
Accounting	6	16.7%	83.3%
Administration of Justice	3	66.7	33.3
Automotive Technology	1	0.0	100.0
Aviation Maintenance Technology	2	0.0	100.0
Business Administration	10	40.0	60.0
Business Office Systems	8	50.0	50.0
Chef Apprentice	3	0.0	100.0
Civil Engineering Technology	1	100.0	0.0
Communication Design	5	20.0	80.0
Computer Information Systems	13	53.8	46.2
Dental Hygiene	5	40.0	60.0
Drafting Technology	3	100.0	0.0
Electrical Technology	2	50.0	50.0
Electronics Technology	8	37.5	62.5
Emergency Medical Technology	21	57.1	42.9
Fire Science	10	60.0	40.0
HVAC Technology	9	22.2	77.8
Hospitality Management	7	14.3	85.7
Interior Design	3	66.7	33.3
Interpreter Training	10	50.0	50.0
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	6	16.7	83.3
Marketing & Management	1	0.0	100.0
M.I.C.T. (Paramedic)	8	50.0	50.0
Nursing	33	33.3	66.7
Paralegal	14	35.7	64.3
Respiratory Care	8	75.0	25.0
Totals	200	42.0%	58.0%

Note. Numbers and percentages reflect responses to this question only, excluding unknowns.

Table 6

EMPLOYMENT PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS WORKING FULL-TIME IN A RELATED JOB

	Number of Responses	Percent
Length of Time on Current Job		
6 months or less	15	7.5%
7 to 12 months	6	3.0
1 to 2 years	43	21.5
2 to 4 years	72	36.0
Over 4 years	56	28.0
Unknown	8	4.0
Progressed in Career Since College		
Yes	171	85.5%
No	28	14.0
Unknown	1	0.5
How Progressed[1]		
Salary increase(s)	178	81.7%
Professional recognition	135	61.9
Promotion(s)	111	50.9
Other	50	22.9
Hourly Wage of Respondents Employed Full-Time in Related Job		
Under $ 7.00	2	1.0%
$ 7.01 - 10.00	12	6.0
10.01 - 12.00	14	7.0
12.01 - 14.00	18	9.0
14.01 - 16.00	30	15.0
16.01 - 18.00	22	11.0
Over 18.00	77	38.5
Unknown	25	12.5

Mean = $18.12/hour or $37,690/year

1999 FU: Class of 1995 = $17.19/hour or $35,755/year
1998 FU: Class of 1994 = $16.78/hour or $34,896/year
1997 FU: Class of 1993 = $15.83/hour or $32,926/year
1996 FU: Class of 1992 = $14.84/hour or $30,867/year
1995 FU: Class of 1991 = $14.82/hour or $30,826/year

Note. Multiple response item; numbers and percentages are not additive.

Table 7

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE BY GENDER AND PROGRAM OF RESPONDENTS EMPLOYED FULL-TIME IN A RELATED JOB

	Number of Responses	Overall Average Wage	Males	Females
Accounting	6	$14.53	-.-	$14.53
Administration of Justice	3	16.49	$16.49	-.-
Automotive Technology	1	13.00	13.00	-.-
Aviation Maintenance Technology	2	25.75	25.75	-.-
Business Administration	10	23.46	24.83	22.10
Business Office Systems	8	16.22	11.00	17.26
Chef Apprentice	3	12.90	12.90	-.-
Civil Engineering Technology	1	17.00	17.00	-.-
Communication Design	5	16.60	15.42	18.38
Computer Information Systems	13	23.95	35.80	18.02
Dental Hygiene	5	27.60	-.-	27.60
Drafting Technology	3	14.47	14.47	-.-
Electrical Technology	2	25.00	25.00	-.-
Electronics	8	16.32	16.32	-.-
Emergency Medical Technology	21	13.30	13.42	12.75
Fire Science	10	17.90	17.90	-.-
HVAC Technology	9	23.03	23.03	-.-
Hospitality Management	7	16.49	17.28	15.70
Interior Design	3	15.50	15.50	-.-
Interpreter Training	10	17.92	18.00	17.90
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	6	15.80	18.00	15.25
Marketing & Management	1	22.00	-.-	22.00
M.I.C.T. (Paramedic)	8	16.81	17.92	13.50
Nursing	33	18.68	18.00	18.71
Paralegal	14	16.72	16.83	16.71
Respiratory Care	8	16.68	16.50	16.70
Totals	200	$18.12	$18.26	$18.00

Note. Results detail responses to this question only, excluding unknowns.

Table 8

EVALUATION OF WORKING CONDITIONS BY RESPONDENTS EMPLOYED FULL-TIME IN A RELATED JOB

	Number of Responses	Excellent or Good	Average	Fair or Poor
Accounting	6	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Administration of Justice	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Automotive Technology	1	0.0	100.0	0.0
Aviation Maintenance Technology	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Business Administration	10	80.0	10.0	10.0
Business Office Systems	8	87.5	0.0	12.5
Chef Apprentice	3	66.7	33.3	0.0
Civil Engineering Technology	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Communication Design	5	100.0	0.0	0.0
Computer Information Systems	13	100.0	0.0	0.0
Dental Hygiene	5	100.0	0.0	0.0
Drafting Technology	3	66.7	0.0	33.3
Electrical Technology	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Electronics Technology	8	87.5	0.0	12.5
Emergency Medical Technology	21	85.7	4.8	9.5
Fire Science	10	90.0	10.0	0.0
HVAC Technology	9	88.9	11.1	0.0
Hospitality Management	7	100.0	0.0	0.0
Interior Design	3	100.0	0.0	0.0
Interpreter Training	10	90.0	10.0	0.0
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	6	83.3	0.0	16.7
Marketing & Management	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
M.I.C.T. (Paramedic)	8	87.5	12.5	0.0
Nursing	33	72.7	21.2	6.1
Paralegal	14	92.9	7.1	0.0
Respiratory Care	8	100.0	0.0	0.0
Totals	198	87.4%	8.1%	4.5%

Note. Results detail responses to this question only, excluding unknowns.

Table 9

EVALUATION OF JOB RESPONSIBILITY BY RESPONDENTS EMPLOYED FULL-TIME IN A RELATED JOB

	Number of Responses	Excellent or Good	Average	Fair or Poor
Accounting	6	83.3%	16.7%	0.0%
Administration of Justice	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Automotive Technology	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Aviation Maintenance Technology	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Business Administration	10	60.0	20.0	20.0
Business Office Systems	8	100.0	0.0	0.0
Chef Apprentice	3	66.7	0.0	33.3
Civil Engineering Technology	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Communication Design	5	100.0	0.0	0.0
Computer Information Systems	13	84.6	15.4	0.0
Dental Hygiene	5	80.0	20.0	0.0
Drafting Technology	3	33.3	33.3	33.3
Electrical Technology	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Electronics Technology	8	75.0	12.5	12.5
Emergency Medical Technology	21	85.7	14.3	0.0
Fire Science	10	90.0	10.0	0.0
HVAC Technology	9	66.7	22.2	11.1
Hospitality Management	6	100.0	0.0	0.0
Interior Design	3	100.0	0.0	0.0
Interpreter Training	10	90.0	0.0	10.0
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	6	100.0	0.0	0.0
Marketing & Management	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
M.I.C.T. (Paramedic)	8	100.0	0.0	0.0
Nursing	33	84.8	9.1	6.1
Paralegal	14	85.8	7.1	7.1
Respiratory Care	8	87.5	12.5	0.0
Totals	197	85.3%	9.6%	5.1%

Note. Results detail responses to this question only, excluding unknowns.

Table 10

EVALUATION OF ADVANCEMENT POTENTIAL BY RESPONDENTS EMPLOYED FULL-TIME IN A RELATED JOB

	Number of Responses	Excellent or Good	Average	Fair or Poor
Accounting	6	83.3%	16.7%	0.0%
Administration of Justice	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Automotive Technology	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Aviation Maintenance Technology	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Business Administration	10	50.0	20.0	30.0
Business Office Systems	8	37.5	25.0	37.5
Chef Apprentice	3	33.3	33.3	33.3
Civil Engineering Technology	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Communication Design	5	60.0	40.0	0.0
Computer Information Systems	13	69.2	7.7	23.1
Dental Hygiene	5	40.0	20.0	40.0
Drafting Technology	3	33.3	33.3	33.3
Electrical Technology	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Electronics Technology	8	37.5	25.0	37.5
Emergency Medical Technology	21	61.9	19.0	19.0
Fire Science	10	80.0	10.0	10.0
HVAC Technology	9	44.4	22.3	33.3
Hospitality Management	7	71.4	14.3	14.3
Interior Design	3	66.7	33.3	0.0
Interpreter Training	10	70.0	10.0	20.0
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	6	66.7	0.0	33.3
Marketing & Management	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
M.I.C.T. (Paramedic)	8	50.0	37.5	12.5
Nursing	33	36.4	39.4	24.2
Paralegal	13	46.2	7.6	46.2
Respiratory Care	8	37.5	37.5	25.0
Totals	197	54.8%	21.8%	23.4%

Note. Results detail responses to this question only, excluding unknowns.

Table 11

EVALUATION OF SALARY BY RESPONDENTS EMPLOYED FULL-TIME IN A RELATED JOB

	Number of Responses	Excellent or Good	Average	Fair or Poor
Accounting	6	83.3%	0.0%	16.7%
Administration of Justice	2	50.0	50.0	0.0
Automotive Technology	1	0.0	0.0	100.0
Aviation Maintenance Technology	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Business Administration	10	70.0	20.0	10.0
Business Office Systems	8	62.5	37.5	0.0
Chef Apprentice	3	33.3	33.3	33.3
Civil Engineering Technology	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Communication Design	5	80.0	20.0	0.0
Computer Information Systems	13	76.9	7.7	15.4
Dental Hygiene	5	100.0	0.0	0.0
Drafting Technology	3	33.3	66.7	0.0
Electrical Technology	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Electronics Technology	8	50.0	37.5	12.5
Emergency Medical Technology	21	71.4	19.0	9.6
Fire Science	10	60.0	20.0	20.0
HVAC Technology	9	77.8	22.2	0.0
Hospitality Management	7	100.0	0.0	0.0
Interior Design	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Interpreter Training	10	70.0	10.0	20.0
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	6	50.0	33.3	16.7
Marketing & Management	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
M.I.C.T. (Paramedic)	8	87.5	0.0	12.5
Nursing	33	54.5	24.2	21.3
Paralegal	14	50.0	50.0	0.0
Respiratory Care	8	50.0	37.5	12.5
Totals	197	66.5%	21.8%	11.7%

Note. Results detail responses to this question only, excluding unknowns.

Table 12

EVALUATION OF JOB IN GENERAL BY RESPONDENTS EMPLOYED FULL-TIME IN A RELATED JOB

	Number of Responses	Excellent or Good	Average	Fair or Poor
Accounting	6	83.3%	16.7%	0.0%
Administration of Justice	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Automotive Technology	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Aviation Maintenance Technology	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Business Administration	10	80.0	10.0	10.0
Business Office Systems	8	87.5	12.5	0.0
Chef Apprentice	3	66.7	33.3	0.0
Civil Engineering Technology	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Communication Design	5	100.0	0.0	0.0
Computer Information Systems	13	92.3	7.7	0.0
Dental Hygiene	5	100.0	0.0	0.0
Drafting Technology	3	100.0	0.0	0.0
Electrical Technology	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Electronics Technology	8	75.0	12.5	12.5
Emergency Medical Technology	21	95.2	4.8	0.0
Fire Science	10	90.0	0.0	10.0
HVAC Technology	9	77.8	11.1	11.1
Hospitality Management	7	100.0	0.0	0.0
Interior Design	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Interpreter Training	10	90.0	10.0	0.0
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	6	100.0	0.0	0.0
Marketing & Management	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
M.I.C.T. (Paramedic)	8	100.0	0.0	0.0
Nursing	33	87.9	9.1	3.0
Paralegal	14	78.6	21.4	0.0
Respiratory Care	8	62.5	37.5	0.0
Totals	197	88.3%	9.2%	2.5%

Note. Results detail responses to this question only, excluding unknowns.

Table 13

JOB SATISFACTION OF RESPONDENTS EMPLOYED FULL-TIME IN A RELATED JOB

	Number of Responses	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied
Accounting	6	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Administration of Justice	3	100.0	0.0	0.0
Automotive Technology	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Aviation Maintenance Technology	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Business Administration	10	90.0	0.0	10.0
Business Office Systems	8	87.5	0.0	12.5
Chef Apprentice	3	66.7	0.0	33.3
Civil Engineering Technology	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Communication Design	5	100.0	0.0	0.0
Computer Information Systems	13	76.9	0.0	23.1
Dental Hygiene	5	100.0	0.0	0.0
Drafting Technology	3	100.0	0.0	0.0
Electrical Technology	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Electronics Technology	8	75.0	25.0	0.0
Emergency Medical Technology	21	85.7	4.8	9.5
Fire Science	10	90.0	0.0	10.0
HVAC Technology	9	66.7	0.0	33.3
Hospitality Management	7	71.4	0.0	28.6
Interior Design	3	100.0	0.0	0.0
Interpreter Training	10	90.0	0.0	10.0
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	6	100.0	0.0	0.0
Marketing & Management	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
M.I.C.T. (Paramedic)	8	87.5	12.5	0.0
Nursing	33	94.0	3.0	3.0
Paralegal	14	85.8	7.1	7.1
Respiratory Care	8	100.0	0.0	0.0
Totals	200	88.5%	3.0%	8.5%

Note. Data were collected utilizing a 5-point scale ranging from very satisfied to very dissatisfied. Thus, the "satisfied" column includes "very satisfied" and "somewhat satisfied" responses combined, and the "dissatisfied" column includes "somewhat dissatisfied" and "very dissatisfied" responses combined. Results detail responses to this question only, excluding unknowns.

Table 14

COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXPERIENCES

	Number of Responses	Percent
JCCC Was First Choice to Attend		
Yes	263	90.1%
No	23	7.9
Unknown	6	2.0
First Choice Instead of JCCC		
University of Kansas	5	21.7%
Other Kansas college or university	4	17.4
Missouri college or university	8	34.9
Out-of-area college or university	1	4.3
Unknown	5	21.7
Method of Career Program Completion		
Earned associate's degree	210	71.9%
Earned vocational certificate	77	26.4
Left with marketable skills	5	1.7
Semesters Enrolled in Career Program		
1 or 2	38	13.0%
3 or 4	112	38.4
5 or 6	56	19.2
7 or 8	17	5.8
9 or more	23	7.9
Unknown	46	15.8
Mean = 4.6; Median = 4.0		
Credit Hours Completed		
15 or less	11	3.8%
16 to 30	20	6.8
31 to 45	20	6.8
46 to 60	33	11.3
61 or more	120	41.1
Unknown	88	30.1
Mean = 63.6; Median = 64.0		

Table 15

PERCEPTIONS OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXPERIENCES

	Number of Responses	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Improved critical thinking and problem-solving skills	291	79.7%	16.5%	3.8%
Enhanced self-confidence	291	78.4	15.8	5.8
Broadened knowledge of arts and sciences	288	71.9	22.6	5.6
Assisted in clarifying personal values and goals	290	70.3	22.8	6.9
Improved decision-making skills	291	69.1	26.1	4.8
Improved oral communication skills	290	69.0	26.5	4.5
Improved written communication skills	288	68.8	25.3	5.9
Improved time management skills	291	66.3	28.2	5.5
Expanded tolerance for people and ideas	290	60.3	32.5	7.2
Improved interpersonal skills	288	54.9	38.2	6.9

Note. Data were collected utilizing a 5-point scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. Thus, the "agree" column includes "strongly agree" and "somewhat agree" responses combined, and the "disagree" column includes "somewhat disagree" and "strongly disagree" responses combined. Results detail responses to these questions only, excluding unknowns.

Table 16

COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVE

	Number of Responses	Percent
Original Educational Objective		
Prepare to enter job market	102	34.9%
Prepare to change careers	59	20.2
Improve skills for present job	48	16.4
Prepare to transfer	35	12.0
Explore career possibilities	25	8.6
Study topics of interest/self-improvement	14	4.8
Remedy or review basic skills	2	0.7
Other/unknown	7	2.4
Achieved Community College Objective		
Yes, completely	232	79.5%
Yes, partially	43	14.7
No	16	5.5
Unknown	1	0.3
Community College Helped Achieve		
Yes	264	95.7%
Unsure	7	2.5
No	2	0.7
Unknown	3	1.1

Table 17

OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

	Number of Responses	Percent
Improved Quality of Life		
Definitely/probably	270	92.5%
Uncertain	12	4.1
Probably no/definitely no	10	3.4
If Starting Now, Would Attend JCCC Again		
Definitely/probably	277	94.9%
Uncertain	3	1.0
Probably no/definitely no	12	4.1
Would Recommend JCCC to Friends		
Yes	283	96.9%
Unsure	7	2.4
Unknown	2	0.7
Would Encourage Own Children to Attend JCCC		
Yes	262	89.7%
Unsure	21	7.2
No	7	2.4
Unknown	2	0.7
Interested in Serving as "Career Connections" Volunteer		
Yes	87	29.8%
Possibly--call with more information	39	13.4
No	159	54.5
Unknown	7	2.3

Table 18

USED JCCC CAREER CENTER

	Number of Responses	Yes	No
Accounting	14	28.6%	71.4%
Administration of Justice	5	20.0	80.0
Automotive Technology	1	100.0	0.0
Aviation Maintenance Technology	2	50.0	50.0
Business Administration	10	80.0	20.0
Business Entrepreneurship	2	0.0	100.0
Business Office Systems	10	90.0	10.0
Chef Apprentice	3	0.0	100.0
Civil Engineering Technology	1	100.0	0.0
Communication Design	8	50.0	50.0
Computer Information Systems	17	52.9	47.1
Dental Hygiene	13	46.2	53.8
Drafting Technology	5	40.0	60.0
Electrical Technology	2	0.0	100.0
Electronics Technology	9	55.6	44.4
Emergency Medical Technology	29	31.0	69.0
Fashion Merchandising	1	100.0	0.0
Fire Science	12	41.7	58.3
HVAC Technology	14	42.9	57.1
Hospitality Management	12	50.0	50.0
Interior Design	6	66.7	33.3
Interpreter Training	11	54.5	45.5
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	9	33.3	66.7
Marketing & Management	1	0.0	100.0
M.I.C.T. (Paramedic)	10	40.0	60.0
Nursing	41	63.4	36.6
Paralegal	26	53.8	46.2
Respiratory Care	13	46.2	53.8
Totals	287	49.1%	50.9%

Note. Data were collected utilizing a 5-point scale ranging from very satisfied to very dissatisfied. Thus, the "satisfied" column includes "very satisfied" and "somewhat satisfied" responses combined, and the "dissatisfied" column includes "somewhat dissatisfied" and "very dissatisfied" responses combined. Results detail responses to this question only, excluding unknowns.

APPENDIX B

MAIL SURVEY INSTRUMENT

AND COVER LETTERS

JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LONG-TERM FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF
1995-96 CAREER PROGRAM COMPLETERS

Dear Former Student: Please take a few minutes to carefully respond to each of the following questions as honestly and completely as possible, then return the completed survey to us in the envelope provided. Naturally all responses will be kept strictly confidential and reported as group data only.

_____NOTE: If you did **not** complete a career program by either graduating, earning a certificate, or leaving with marketable skills during the summer of 1995, fall of 1995 or spring of 1996, please check here and return the uncompleted survey to us so we can correct our records. Thank you for your help.

---

1. Which career program did you complete?_____

2. What was your status when you left that career program? (Check only one)

   _____1. Earned an associate's degree
   _____2. Earned a vocational certificate
   _____3. Left with enough training to work in this career field

3. Was JCCC your first choice when you decided to attend college to pursue this major?

   _____1. Yes
   _____2. No (If no, which college was your first choice?_____)

4. How many semesters were you enrolled **in that program** at the community college?_____

5. How many **total credit hours** have you completed at the community college?_____

6. Which of the following best describes your primary educational objective when you **first** enrolled at the community college? (Check only one)

   _____1. Transfer to another college or university
   _____2. Prepare to enter the job market
   _____3. Improve skills for your present job
   _____4. Explore courses to decide on a new career
   _____5. Remedy or review basic skills
   _____6. Study topics of interest or for self-improvement
   _____7. Prepare to change careers
   _____8. Other (Please specify)

7. Did you achieve your community college educational objective?

   _____1. Yes, completely
   _____2. Yes, partially
   _____3. No (If no, briefly explain reason)

8. If yes, did the community college help you to achieve this objective?

   _____1. Yes
   _____2. Unsure
   _____3. No (Please explain)

9. Regardless of the financial benefits, do you feel your community college experiences have improved the quality of your life?

   _____1. Definitely not
   _____2. Probably not
   _____3. Uncertain
   _____4. Probably yes
   _____5. Definitely yes

10. If you could go back, knowing what you know now, would you still attend the community college?

    _____1. Definitely not
    _____2. Probably not
    _____3. Uncertain
    _____4. Probably yes
    _____5. Definitely yes

11. Would you recommend attending JCCC to your friends and acquaintances?

____1. Yes
____2. Unsure
____3. No

12. Would you encourage your own children to attend JCCC?

____1. Yes
____2. Unsure
____3. No

13. Below are several goals that "typical" students have for their college experiences. Please indicate how much you agree that your experiences at the community college helped you to accomplish each of these goals.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
A. Broadened my knowledge of the arts and sciences	1	2	3	4	5
B. Improved my ability to communicate orally	1	2	3	4	5
C. Improved my ability to communicate in writing	1	2	3	4	5
D. Improved my ability to make good decisions	1	2	3	4	5
E. Improved my ability to make constructive use of time	1	2	3	4	5
F. Enhanced my ability to get along with others	1	2	3	4	5
G. Expanded my tolerance for people and ideas	1	2	3	4	5
H. Assisted me in clarifying the values and goals of my life	1	2	3	4	5
I. Enhanced my self-confidence	1	2	3	4	5
J. Improved my critical thinking and problem-solving skills	1	2	3	4	5

14. If you could name one faculty or staff member who had the greatest impact on you at the community college, who would it be?

_____Dept./Area_____

Why did you select this person?

15. How are you currently using the skills you developed through your community college career program?

____1. In my job
____2. Doing volunteer work
____3. Not using my skills (Please explain)

____4. Other (Please explain)

16. Have you ever used the services of the JCCC Career Center (career/life planning, resume writing, job search, etc.)

____1. Yes
____2. No (If no, why not?)

17. Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

_____1. Full-time military
_____2. Employed part-time (under 30 hours per week)
_____3. Employed full-time (30+ hours per week)
_____4. Unemployed, actively looking for work
_____5. Not in labor force (not employed and not actively looking for a job)

IF UNEMPLOYED OR OUT OF THE LABOR FORCE--SKIP TO QUESTION 25

18. How long have you had your present job?_____

19. What is your current job title?_____

20. What is your average **hourly** wage?_____

21. How would you describe your job in terms of the skills you developed in your career program?

_____1. Directly related to skills developed in the community college career program
_____2. Somewhat related to skills developed in the community college career program
_____3. Not at all related to skills developed in the community college career program

22. How satisfied are you with your present job?

_____1. Very dissatisfied
_____2. Somewhat dissatisfied
_____3. Neutral
_____4. Somewhat satisfied
_____5. Very satisfied

23. Please rate each of the following characteristics of your current job by circling the number most closely reflecting your opinion.

	Poor	Fair	Average	Good	Excellent
A. Working conditions	1	2	3	4	5
B. Amount of responsibility	1	2	3	4	5
C. Advancement potential	1	2	3	4	5
D. Salary	1	2	3	4	5
E. Job in general	1	2	3	4	5

24. Is your current job the first one you have had in this career field?

_____1. Yes
_____2. No

25. Do you feel you've progressed in your career field since completing your career program?

_____1. No
_____2. Yes (If yes, in what ways have you progressed? Check all that apply)

_____1. Salary increase(s)
_____2. Promotion(s)
_____3. Professional recognition
_____4. Other (Please specify)

26. The JCCC Career Center has initiated a new service whereby students seeking information on various career possibilities are put in contact with completers of the career program in which the student is interested. If you decide to be included in this "Career Connections" database, no more than 3 individuals will be referred to you in any given year. The usual procedure is for you to set an appointment to meet with them for no more than 30 minutes to discuss your career field and answer any questions they may have. Would you be interested in doing this?

_____1. Yes
_____2. Possibly--call me with more information (Please provide phone number)_____
_____3. No

27. What is your race/ethnic category?

_____1. American Indian/Alaskan
_____2. Hispanic
_____3. Asian/Pacific Islander
_____4. African American
_____5. White/other

28. What is your marital status?

_____1. Single/never married
_____2. Married now
_____3. Previously married (separated, divorced, or widowed)

29. What is your gender?

_____1. Male
_____2. Female

30. What is your age?_____

Any comments or suggestions you would like to make about the community college or the career program you completed which would help us in meeting the needs of future students would be appreciated.

Thank you for your help!

June 27, 2000

Dear JCCC Career Program Completer:

As part of Johnson County Community College's continuing commitment to improving its programs and services, we are surveying former students who completed a career program at JCCC (or through Maple Woods or Penn Valley Community College) during the summer of 1995, fall of 1995, or spring of 1996. This includes graduates, students earning certificates, and students who have completed sufficient coursework to acquire new skills or upgrade their current ones.

The information you provide will assist us in enhancing our career programs, and in helping future students make realistic career choices by furnishing them with data on the success of our career program completers over time. Please take a few minutes to answer each of the questions on the enclosed survey as completely and accurately as possible, then return the completed survey to us in the postage-paid envelope provided ***by Friday, July 14***. Naturally your responses will be kept strictly confidential and reported as group data only.

Thank you for your help, and for any comments or suggestions you may have which will assist us in meeting the needs of future JCCC students.

Sincerely,

Dan Radakovich

Dan Radakovich
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Enclosures

July 18, 2000

Dear Career Program Completer:

A few weeks ago we sent you a survey requesting information about your perceptions and opinions of the education you received at JCCC (or at Penn Valley or Maple Woods Community College if you participated in a co-op program) and how you are using the skills you developed in your career program. If you have already completed the survey, thank you very much. Your responses will help us in planning to meet the needs of future community college students like yourself.

In the event you have not as yet completed the survey and returned it to us, we are enclosing a second copy. Please take a few minutes to answer each of the questions as completely and accurately as possible. A postage-paid business reply envelope has been provided for your convenience in returning the completed survey to us ***by Friday, August 4***. Naturally all responses will be kept strictly confidential and reported as group data only.

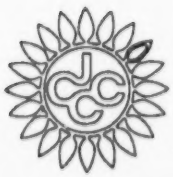
Thank you for your help in evaluating the career program in which you participated, and for any comments or suggestions you may have.

Sincerely,

Dan Radakovich

Dan Radakovich
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Enclosures



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U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)
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